

PRESS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT IN YAVAPAI COUNTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2020

THE COURTS REMAIN OPEN

On March 23, 2020 Governor Douglas A. Ducey issued Executive Order 2020-12 Prohibiting the Closure of Essential Services (<https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>) which establishes the Arizona Courts as Essential Government Functions. Therefore, to promote the safety and welfare of the public, court staff and our justice partners, the Superior and Justice Courts in Yavapai County remain open to the community.

The Supreme Court issued Administrative Order 2020-48 (<http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders20/2020-48.pdf?ver=2020-03-18-160342-583>), which authorizes all Presiding Superior Court Judges in Arizona to establish, adopt or suspend court rules and orders needed to address the COVID-19 health emergency while continuing to perform the essential court functions necessary to meet the needs of the public. The Courts in Yavapai County continue to work closely with the Yavapai County Community Health Services Department as developments progress with COVID-19. Court proceedings continue to be conducted in a manner that provides for the safety of the participants and court personnel and promotes social distancing as recommended by the CDC.

In order to continue court operations, the Presiding Judge of Yavapai County David L. Mackey issued Administrative Order 2020-06 (<http://courts.yavapai.us/Portals/2/AdminOrders/2020/2020-06.pdf>), which establishes procedures that allow the Courts to continue daily operations while following the recommendations of health officials to the extent possible and as permitted by law. The Order provides for citizens appearing telephonically for many types of court hearings, reducing the number of people appearing before a judge when hearings must be in-person, providing for the electronic filing of court paperwork and giving instructions for

making court-related payments without going to the courthouses.

Though jury trials and Grand Jury empanelment have been suspended through April 17, 2020, the Courts continue to be open and continue to conduct hearings in criminal cases. Defendants in the custody of the Yavapai County Jail are being liberally granted permission to appear for court proceedings either telephonically or by video.

While the doors remain open in the Superior and Justice Courts, some Municipal and Magistrate Courts located within city buildings have been closed to daily walk-in traffic but can be contacted by phone or email. Citizens seeking to obtain Protective Orders or other emergency relief in the areas impacted by city closures are urged to contact their local Court for further instruction or appear at one of our County Court buildings to request emergency orders.

Resources:

Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2020-48

<http://www.azcourts.gov/Portals/22/admorder/Orders20/2020-48.pdf?ver=2020-03-18-160342-583>

Yavapai County Superior Court Administrative Order 2020-06

<http://courts.yavapai.us/Portals/2/AdminOrders/2020/2020-06.pdf>

Arizona Governor Douglas A. Ducey's Executive Order 2020-12

<https://azgovernor.gov/executive-orders>